

LAS VEGAS METROPOLITAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
VOLUNTARY STATEMENT
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EVENT#: 171001-3S19

SPECIFIC CRIME: ACTIVE SHOOTER / MURDER

DATE OCCURRED: 10-01-17

TIME OCCURRED: 2208 HOURS

LOCATION OF OCCURRENCE: MANDALAY BAY RESORT AND CASINO
3950 S. LAS VEGAS BOULEVARD
LAS VEGAS, NV 89119

CITY OF LAS VEGAS CLARK COUNTY

NAME OF PERSON GIVING STATEMENT: OFFICER THERON YOUNG (TY), P# 15103

DOB: SOCIAL SECURITY#:

RACE: SEX:

HEIGHT: WEIGHT:

HAIR: EYES:

HOME ADDRESS: PHONE 1:

WORK ADDRESS: PHONE 2:

The following is the transcription of a tape-recorded interview conducted by DETECTIVE C. JEX (CJ), P# 5597, LVMPD FORCE INVESTIGATION TEAM, on 10-03-17 at 1805 hours. Also present is Las Vegas Police Protective Association representative S. Nicholas (SN), P# 6676.

CJ: Operator this is Detective C. Jex, P# 5597, with the Force Investigation Team conducting a recorded witness officer statement reference Event # 171001-3519. The officer being interviewed is Officer Theron, T-H-E-R-O-N, Young, Y-O-U-N-G, his P# 15103. His call sign for this incident was 8Mary61. He's part of the Flex Team in the Convention Center Area Command. His date of hire is [REDACTED] He is assigned to Convention Center Area Command, Squad CC16. And his RDOs are Wednesday, Thursday, Friday. This interview is reference an active shooter that

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occurred on 10-1-17, at approximately 2208 hours at the Mandalay Bay Resort at 3950 Las Vegas Boulevard South. Today's date is 10-3-17, and starting time is 0605 hours. This statement is being conducted at LVMPD Headquarters, uh, Building C, uh, 3rd Floor in the, uh, CIRT Conference Room. Uh, also present is PPA Representative Scott Nicholas, P# 6676. All right is it okay if I call you Theron?

TH: That's fine.

CJ: Theron, uh, you're aware that this interview is being recorded?

TH: I am.

CJ: All right. Uh, before we get started what I would like for you to do is, uh, describe to me what you were wearing the - the night of the incident...

TH: Okay.

CJ: ..and, uh, and then any gear that you may have put on, uh, and describe that gear, okay?

TH: Okay.

CJ: Go ahead.

TH: Uh, our squad was conducting a plain-clothes plain operation so I was in street clothes, I had a - a black button up shirt with blue jeans and tennis shoes on. Um, we got the call, we were driving actually back, uh, to meet one of the detective sergeants to, um, maybe coordinate a CI. And that's when the call came out, we immediately pulled over and we had a tactical vest in the vehicle, the tactical vest was green in

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color, it had, um, a Metro Velcro badge on the front and I had the - the bright yellow and black Police on the back. I also was wearing my hang badge at the time on my shirt as well. I had donned that that equipment on which is a full plate carrier with - with armored plates and magazines. Um, I am a rifle carrier, I also slung my rifle as well as I had a, uh, a sidearm in a sidearm holster on a normal belt on my persons.

CJ: Okay. And the rifle, is that personally owned or Department?

TH: It's personally owned.

CJ: Okay and what - what kind of rifle was it?

TH: It's - it's a No- Noveske AR-15.

CJ: Okay.

TH: Yeah.

CJ: All right. Um, okay, uh, now what I'd like for you to do is just narrate me through, uh, how you responded...

TH: Okay.

CJ: ...or how you heard about it and how you responded and then just walk me through, tell the whole story all the way through...

TH: Okay.

CJ: ...'til you were re- essentially relieved from wherever you were.

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TH: All right so again I said before we were on our way to meet a detective sergeant, uh, we were trying to maybe possibly get a CI in our area command to work with us. Um, that's when the call came out, we were I believe just on Sierra Vista at the moment. Um, call came out, my partner and I, uh, we pulled over real fast and we just threw on the equipment very quickly, started heading towards, uh, the Mandalay Bay, Route 91 area. 'Cause we heard that's what the - the call was coming out as. Uh, as you know there was a lot of radio traffic, the first details was it was at the Route 91 and as we're on our way there then we started hearing guys saying it was coming from - from the Mandalay Bay. Um, we were traveling down - down, uh, Paradise, we made it over to, uh, Tropicana and then we started hearing that officers were taking fire at the intersection of Mandalay Bay and Las Vegas Boulevard and that we pretty much had confirmation that it was coming from the actual Mandalay Bay. We changed route, we went through the Excalibur, we wanted to go around, we did not want to take direct fire, we made the decision that we're gonna go inside and try to find this guy. So we changed direction, went around the Excalibur which there's a - a back street, Frank Sinatra which leads into a back valet of Mandalay Bay which is they - they call that area the Delano. Uh, we pulled right in there, we parked. My partner and I, we got out, um, we started trying to find a security guard so we could find which elevator bay we needed to go to. Um, during that we actually found a couple other officers that were already in there and they were wearing, uh, their tan Metro uniforms. Um, we grabbed a security guard and we said, "We need to get in an elevator right now, what floor are we going to?" We had multiple reports, at the time

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we had 29th Floor, possibly a 32nd Floor so we had multiple floors that maybe we were gonna go to. One security guard actually took us in improper direction and we found a right guy to take us the correct direction, we finally got in the elevator. Um, we decided that we were gonna go to the 32nd Floor 'cause like I said guys were getting information that it was multiple floors and we just made a decision that hey we're just gonna go to the 32nd, that's where we have our best information. We'll go there, we'll sweep the floor, if we don't find anything we'll go start working our way down to the next floor and so on and so forth. We made it up to the 32nd Floor, my partner and I along with I don't know those other officer's names. My partner is Officer Kravetz. Uh, I think we had like four guys in tans with us, don't quote me on that number. We went up the elevator, got to 32nd - the 31st Floor, we decided to use the stairs to go up, we didn't want to be ambushed or anything like that on that floor. Um, there was another officer who was waiting in the elevator bay and we got off the stairs at 32 he was right there and then that's when he told us that a security guard had been engaged on that floor. Um, we had an idea of where the room was, we knew it was the north area tower so we knew which direction to face. Uh, we got the information again from the officer there who was talking to that security guard. Um, we didn't know exactly where the room was at that moment, we just knew that it was possibly that - the # 135 room up there. Uh, we also were told there was multiple shooters. Uh, by the time that we had got up there we had heard no more shots. I was not hearing shots when we were in the - when we were, um, on the casino floor going in the elevator, I did not hear shots when we were in the stairwell, and we

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did not hear shots when we were actually on the 32nd at the end of the hallway facing that north - that north room. So we got a master key from the security guards and we decided that okay well we possibly have multiple shooters, that means it could be multiple rooms. We started going through doors and clearing rooms, working' our way down. Um, again maybe there's five to seven of us at this time, I don't know exactly. I just remember my partner and I, we - we stayed together the whole time. Um, and as we - as we are, uh, clearing, we're just kind of moving. Uh, we're - we're covering each other down the hallway so we- we're - we're doing it tactically, we have a guy covering down the hallway, a couple guys covering the hallway, we have a breacher up on the door; we're - we're pushing the doors in, we're goin' on and we're - we're clearing out rooms like we are trained to do. Uh, we're working our way up and then one of the guys noticed is there some impacts in the ceiling above us, we were probably about halfway down the hallway at this point. And again we're not hearing anything at all. Um, I lay in the prone because we see those and I start covering down the hallway and there's - you can see actually bullet fragments, shrapnel on the ground. So now we know that we're pretty sure we are in the right place where we need to be. Uh, we talked to a security guard and - and we're asking him again, "Does your guy know exactly where he took fire from?" I'm like looking at two doors down the hall, I said, "What are those two doors that I'm looking at? Is that - is that possibly the room?" And he said, "That is the room, # 32135 that we believe it came out." So now we're pretty sure that is the room now and maybe if there are multiple shooters, maybe they are all in that room. We decide

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to work forward a few more bays, uh, bays meaning the hotel rooms. We clear a couple more rooms on each the left and the right side. Uh, we were probably about three bays down and the last door that we go into there was actually sadly a toddler in there all by itself. We were able to get that out of there thankfully, pass it off to another officer who I think passed it off to a neighboring female. Um, so then we decided to decision that okay we believe this is the room and we know that there's been already fire taken down this hallway and we know SWAT is coming. Uh, Security was telling us they believe the stairwell and those doors might be barricaded and we decided to hold. 'Cause again we didn't hear anything. So we held, SWAT shows up, um, they start coordinating their attack, they got their snipers and everything like that. Um, they go ahead and make their move forward, they start setting up their breaching charge, they let us know that, "We're gonna breach, we're gonna breach," that's being communicated back. I guess I got a little ahead of myself, before all that I hear- I guess there was another team coming up the stairwell as well and the SWAT guy was communicating with them too. I - I got ahead of myself there.

CJ: Okay.

TH: Um, I believe my partner was helping him with that radio traffic. And at that time I am still in the prone and I am holding on that door as well as other officers are in the hallways holding on the door as well. Um, they do their coordination with that other team down the hallway 'cause there's some flashlights coming out and we obviously don't want a - a crossfire or anything like that. I remember the guy calling, "Hey

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SWAT, SWAT, SWAT, identify yourself. Identify yourself." That's when they got on the radio and they started communicating, they knew that was a friendly, not - not our suspect and we had friendlies down the hallway. Uh, so SWAT made - made their plan. Um, they set up the breach, they told us, "Okay back up, get in the room and get ready to cover your ears and close your mouth 'cause it's gonna be loud." So one charge went off and then you had smoke coming' out and you could hear the smoke alarms coming off, things like that. Um, they said, "Hey we're gonna place another charge," um, so they placed another charge and they told us that breach is gonna be up again. Um, they said, "It's gonna be loud again, please cover your ears." So once they were ready and they told us to cover our ears we covered our ears again and they blew the door again. And at that - the second breach is when I believe that they did enter. Um, I didn't hear any loud gunfire, it sounded like maybe there might've been some suppressor fired 'cause it was not very loud or maybe because the room was so big we couldn't hear all the way down the hallway so I don't know if gunfire was exchanged between suspect and SWAT, or suspect 405 or what. Um, after that we walked up to the door, uh, as the SWAT guys came out and we said, "Okay well what else do you need now?" And they said, "Okay rooms gonna be - gonna be locked. What we need you guys to do is we need you to re-sweep the whole 32nd Floor. So myself, Officer Kravetz and another officer -- which he was in plain-clothes but he also had a full-identifiable Tac on, I don't know who that officer was -- we went back and cleared the entire 32nd Floor with other officers. So we had a four-man team on the left and a four-man team on the right. They took

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the right side, we took the left side, or vice versa. Again with the security guard with the master key and we re-cleared every tower on the whole floor. And there was actually some people, um, in a few rooms that were in the, uh, wing that we hadn't cleared previous and we got those people out as well. So after we, um, cleared that we went back over to the room to check in, um, there was a couple guys there, I believe there was a Sarge there and we just said, "We cleared like everything you told us to do," and they said, "Okay well SWAT wants you to stop clearing," I was like, "That's fine, we had already cleared everything." And they said, "Okay well you guys are good then," so then we - we, um, we called our sergeant and let 'em know where we were. Um, in our squads we already have strike teams set in incidents like that so what myself and Officer Kravetz did per our sergeant's instructions, we found those - the other group of guys that we're supposed to be with and we met up with them on the casino floor in Mandalay Bay and we held a position in the lobby.

CJ: On which floor?

TH: On the - the lobby level.

CJ: Oh the lobby level.

TH: We met up with our - two other guys from our squad that we're supposed to be with and we held there until further notice. And then, um, after that we were told okay we could - it was okay to leave Mandalay Bay now, then we went and found our supervisor which was at Mandalay Bay and Las Vegas Boulevard.

CJ: Okay.

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TH: And then we just kind of stayed there. Um, kind of just at the intersection one of our guys locked the keys in the car so we were waiting with him to - to get a tow to - to get it out. And that - and then we got relieved. So...

CJ: Okay.

TH: ...I know that was kind of a lot quickly but...

CJ: No that - no that was good.

SN: Awesome.

TH: So...

CJ: So, uh, you mentioned that you never did hear shots except for when they - after they had breached and entered...

TH: Yeah. So like I said as we were going up the elevator I didn't hear any shots, I don't - I don't think anybody else heard any shots. We got off on the 31st, didn't hear shots. We went up the stairs, we made it through that main - the main elevator bay and 32 now, we were not hearing anything.

CJ: So this - this stairwell that you went up from 31 to 32...

TH: Mm-hm.

CJ: ...where in - in relation - I've been up there so in - in relation to where you come off of the elevators in that - there's kind of a round area where the wings go off of to the room...

TH: Mm-hm.

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CJ: ...where are the stairs in relation to that if you can remember?

TH: I bel- you know what, we got a little turned around on our north, south, east and west up there so I can't give you...

CJ: That's okay.

TH: ...a great direction. Um, I know they were not the stairs that we came off, were not - was not the wing near the target room.

CJ: Okay.

TH: 'Cause I remember we had to come out - 'cause again - so you know how the Mandalay Bay (unintelligible) where it's got the big area and then you have the elevator base well then it splits off the three wings, we came down the one wing that one officer again was standing who had made contact with the security guard who was shot, and he was holding on that corner which was - now we know was facing - was facing north. And so we must've co- yeah we came out here, he was in a big area and then he was facing north and that's when we conducted our plan to start moving down the hallway.

CJ: When you were cl- you mentioned that you cleared the rooms down towards where the target...

TH: Yes.

CJ: ...room was, uh, were there people in any of those rooms?

TH: Yeah there - like I said we talked about the - the baby in the one room...

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CJ: The toddler.

TH: ...I know that the other rooms had some other - some adults in it as well. So yeah there was - there was some people in there, the amount or number I couldn't tell you. Um, but there was some people still in those rooms that we cleared out, yes there was.

CJ: Okay. Now talking about the - the charges that were set by SWAT...

TH: Mm-hm.

CJ: ...um, I'm just a little confused on that. You made - you made - you kind of made it sound like the two charges happened very quickly with each other.

TH: Yeah, uh, again (unintelligible) I know I said a lot quickly. They were not back to back.

CJ: Okay.

TH: Um, they set a charge, they - they detonated it, they waited, I couldn't tell you the time lapse, and they set another one and detonated it.

CJ: So when you heard the first one...

TH: Mm-hm.

CJ: ...and you said you were prone out watching the door down the...

TH: So, um, wh- when I relieved my prone - when they told me to leave my prone position is when the SWAT Sierras got there. Then they said, "Back up in the room," 'cause they're gonna...

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CJ: Okay.

TH: ...they're gonna put the charges. So when the charge went off most of us were back in a room 'cause we propped all the doors open to let everyone know that we had cleared 'em and...

CJ: Okay.

TH: ...it was safe. Um, they told us to get in there and cover our ears-

CJ: Okay.

TH: Yes.

CJ: So - so when the breach happened you didn't see whether or not it went in...

TH: I didn't - yes.

CJ: ...went in there down there or anything like that.

TH: Hm-mm, no I did not.

CJ: And then when you heard the second one you don't know what was going on down there, while the second one went?

TH: No I don't.

CJ: Okay.

TH: I don't.

CJ: All right. All right. That clears that up. Um, you mentioned that you possibly heard rounds like sur- uh, a suppressed type of round...

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TH: 'Cause it was - it was qu- there was noise in there that was quiet that was, you know, it could've sounded like, um, a - a round that was fired from a - a suppressed weapon. Like and the room was big, it could've been...

CJ: Sure.

TH: ...it deadened in there, I don't know.

CJ: So you - you have heard that the suspect was 405...

TH: That's what we - that's what the rumors were floating around, yes.

CJ: Okay.

TH: Mm-hm.

CJ: So do you know the facts of it now at this point?

TH: I really don't.

CJ: Okay.

TH: I really don't.

CJ: Okay so just so that you understand that...

TH: Mm-hm.

CJ: ...he did 405.

TH: Okay.

CJ: Or, he committed suicide. All right. Um...

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TH: Well was there any rounds exchanged?

CJ: Um, I'll explain that to you...

TH: Okay.

CJ: ...um, here in just a minute. Now as you're clearing those rooms how did you get into those rooms?

TH: Okay so, um, I think I mentioned we grabbed a security officer with master keys and we dedicated one of our guys as breacher, breacher meaning the guy who would do the - the key and then open the door.

CJ: Okay.

TH: So we had one officer who would do that and he would put the key up, breacher up open the door, then we'd have two or three guys go into the room... .

CJ: Okay.

TH: ...and clear it.

CJ: So you weren't kicking the door...

TH: No we were not kicking in doors...

CJ: but using the keys.:

TH: we're us- we're using the key, yeah. Mm-hm.

CJ: Okay. All right. Um, when you - wh- when you made the decision to go upstairs where you had heard these different floors, 29th I think you said...

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TH: Yeah.

CJ: ...and then 30- the 32nd, where did you get that information? Where were you getting that info?

TH: Um, well some of it was coming through the radio multiple shooters on multiple floors. And then when we made contact with some of the officers and security on the floor, that's where they were saying that they think it's gonna be the 29th or 32nd Floor.

CJ: Okay.

TH: And that would be Mandalay Bay Security.

CJ: Okay. And did you - did you have a radio on your gear?

TH: I had - yes I had a radio right here, yeah.

CJ: Okay, all right. Um, Scott do you have anything?

SN: I don't.

CJ: Okay. Anything else that you can think of, any other details?

TH: Uh, it was very difficult to get on the radio but I'm sure you knew that already.

CJ: Okay.

TH: So we - one guy was communicating that was with us about where we were and what was goin' on, I do remember that.

CJ: Okay.

TH: So...

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CJ: All right. Anything else? Scott, anything else?

SN: No, sir. No.

CJ: All right. Operator this is, uh, the end of the interview. The same - same people present. The time is, uh, 1821.

THIS VOLUNTARY STATEMENT WAS COMPLETED AT LVMPD HEADQUARTERS, 400 S. MARTIN LUTHER KING BOULEVARD, LAS VEGAS, NV 89106, ON THE 3RD DAY OF OCTOBER 2017 AT 1821 HOURS.

CJ: (NET TRANSCRIPTS)
FIT2017-032
Reviewed by M6239S
10-08-17